

**Remarks**

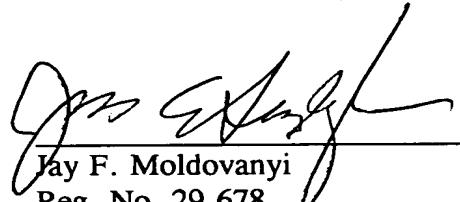
In the Amendment filed on February 12, 2002, new claims 23-65 were added. Claims 1-22 remain as in the patent. Claims 23, 32, 42, and 52 are independent claims. Claims 23-65 are supported by the Figures 1, 5, 8-10 and 13A-13C, as well as column 5, lines 1-67 and column 6, lines 1-67, column 7, lines 1-30 and column 8, lines 12-52 of the specification. For example, Figure 8 illustrates an upright cleaner includes a main filter housing 50 and a mating dirt container 52 which together define a cylindrical cyclonic airflow chamber 54. The filter housing assembly includes an upper fixed housing section 50a and a lower detachable housing 50b. Referring to Figures 13A-13C and claim 7, lines 18-25 of the specification, a main filter element H received by the filter housing section 50b is frusto-conical in shape and comprises thermoplastic material. Referring to Figure 8, section 50b includes a plurality of tabs or tangs 54b extending therefrom to releasably connect it to the upper housing section 50a. Referring to Figure 10, housing 50b has a plurality of apertures 56 therethrough. A suction airflow outlet passage 60 is included in the housing upper section 50a which communicates with the cyclonic chamber 54 through an aperture 62. Outlet passage 60 also communicates with conduit 46 leading to the motor/fan assembly E. The aperture 62, and the main filter element H are shown to be centrally located in the cyclonic chamber 54 to facilitate the cyclonic airflow in the chamber.

The motor/fan assembly E establishes a suction airflow through suction opening 26 in a nozzle and into the cyclonic chamber 54 via conduit or hoses 34, 82. A suction force is generated at inlet 40 to the motor/fan assembly E, through conduit 46, and into cyclonic chamber 54 through generally tangential inlet 80. (Fig. 5). The suction airstream passes through apertures 56 of the filter, through filter element H and exits chamber 54 through outlet passage 60 formed in filter housing 50a. The airstream then communicates to motor/fan assembly E via inlet 40 and is exhausted through outlet 42 to final filter F.

The foregoing submission is believed to meet the requirements of the 37 CFR 1.173(b), and the applicants await further action on the application from the Patent and Trademark Office.

Respectfully submitted,

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